

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01314 082025Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 IO-14 /142 W

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R 081835Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1314

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: AIRCRAFT SHELTER STUDY

REF: A. STATE 44299

B. USNATO 876

C. USNATO 146

SUMMARY. CURRENT MBFR SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA) STUDY OFFERS A GOOD DEVICE FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF INCREASING SHELTER LEVELS. SINCE EFFECTS OF VARYING THE MANY PROTECTIVE MEASURES IS IMPORTANT TO EWG DECISION, MISSION PROPOSES TO MAKE USE OF SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER (STC) AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY STUDY FOR THAT PURPOSE. IN ADDITION, WE RECOMMEND MEETING OF UK AND US REPRESENTATIVES AFTER NEXT SGTA MEETING TO ACCELERATE STUDY OF AIRCRAFT SHELTERS IN THE UK. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OR COMMENT. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 NATO 01314 082025Z

1. MISSION AGREES THAT STUDY MODEL BEING USED BY SGTA OFFERS A GOOD DEVICE FOR OBTAINING ADDITIONAL DATA ON THE EFFECTS OF INCREASING AIRCRAFT SHELTER LEVELS (REF A). MISSION BELIEVES SGTA COULD PROPERLY TAKE ON THIS TASK SINCE

THE RESULTS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION USEFUL IN THE MBFR CONTEXT. EWG COULD THEN USE THIS INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THEIR PLANNING DECISIONS.

2. PRIOR TO MAKING FURTHER DECISION ON HIGHER SHELTER LEVELS, ALLIES INSIST ON A STUDY OF THE INTERACTION AND TRADE-OFFS AMONG VARIOUS HIGHER LEVELS OF MANY PROTECTIVE MEASURES, I.E., AIRCRAFT SHELTERS, POINT AIR DEFENSE, RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR, AND RUNWAY TONE DOWN (REF B). THE INTERACTION OF THESE FACTORS IS NOT CONSIDERED IN THE CURRENT SGTA ANALYSIS. FOR THESE REASONS, WE PROPOSE TO MAKE USE OF THE STC AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY STUDY. IF THIS COURSE IS APPROVED BY SHAPE, SHELTER EXPERTS FROM COUNTRIES COULD MEET WITH STC ANALYSTS LATE IN MARCH OR EARLY APRIL TO CONSIDER STATUS OF STUDY AND ANY NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

3. AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT STUDY REQUIREMENT IS THE QUESTION OF SHELTERS IN THE UK. THIS STUDY EFFORT IS DELAYED PENDING COMPLETION OF UK AIR DEFENSE STUDY. TO ACCELERATE THE UK SHELTER STUDY MISSION RECOMMENDS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULING A MEETING OF UK AND US REPRESENTATIVES AFTER NEXT SGTA MEETING ABOUT APRIL 1ST, IN HOPES THAT UK AIR DEFENSE STUDY WILL BE COMPLETE. PREFERABLY THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN LONDON IN ORDER TO REVIEW UK AIR DEFENSE STUDY WITH PRINCIPAL TEAM MEMBERS AND SET OUTLINE FOR ANALYSIS OF SHELTER LEVELS FOR AIRCRAFT IN THE UK. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OR COMMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO01314
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12/31/80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740381/abbrytrq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 44299
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: AIRCRAFT SHELTER STUDY
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSAFE
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005